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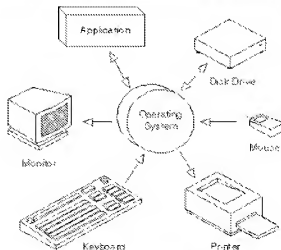
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## operating environment

Last modified: Sunday, September 03, 1995



The environment in which users run programs. For example, the DOS environment consists of all the DOS commands available to users. The Macintosh environment, on the other hand, is a graphical user interface that uses icons and menus instead of commands.

There is a thin line between operating environments and shells. Historically, shells are the interfaces to operating systems. They do not actually add any new capabilities; they simply provide a better user interface. So-called intelligent shells, however, actually extend an



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operating system's capabilities, so there is little difference between intelligent shells and operating environments.

Operating environments are sometimes called **control programs**.

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## control program

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(1) A program that enhances an operating system by creating an environment in which you can run other programs.

Control programs generally provide a graphical interface and enable you to run several programs at once in different windows.

Control programs are also called operating environments.

(2) Another term for operating system.

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